



# University of New Haven

HENRY C. LEE COLLEGE OF  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND FORENSIC SCIENCES

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Tow Youth Justice Institute

## JJPOC Education Work Group Minutes

January 12, 2015

Saw Mill Campus, Room 103

600 Saw Mill Rd, West Haven, CT

### Attendance:

Edie Joseph	Judge Bernadette Conway	Tasha Hunt	Kitty Tyrol
Leigh C. Higgins	Cathy Foley-Geib	Deb Fuller	Jeanne Milstein
Patricia Nunez	Jaquita Monroe	Nachi Bhatt	William H. Carbone
Patrice McCarthy	John Frassinelli	Marisa Halm	Amanda Bozak
Peter Rockholz	Dandre Grosvernor	Terri Drew	Chloe Williams

Kitty Tyrol opened the meeting. All participants introduced themselves. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Ms. Tyrol thanked everyone for sending short, medium, and long-term objectives for the education goal addressing DMC and data as requested with submissions from Judicial, Office of the Chief Public Defender, the workgroup including SDE and DCF, the Office of the Child Advocate, and the Center for Children's Advocacy.

Ms. Tyrol announced that the Tow Youth Justice Institute was approached by the Tow Foundation to sponsor a forum on April 29, 2015, on restorative justice. Judge Becroft from New Zealand, an expert on restorative justice will come to CT (UNH) to explain the RJ process as a referral from the court and how it can help youth involved with juvenile justice. Jeanne Milstein reported that we are actively reaching out to members of the education community, including superintendents, principals and teachers, to invite them to participate in the work group.

Members were invited to share their submitted objectives with the group at large.

Cathy Foley-Geib, Judicial, reported that her work group came up with several objectives, some of which included:

- Expand the capacity of "Raise the Grade" Education coordinators and surrogates; legislation past session provided for one-year pilots in Bridgeport, Hartford, and New Haven. Evaluation of the pilot and expansion statewide is recommended.
  - Expand SBDI (School Based Diversion Initiative) from CHDI, which is showing effectiveness in 22 schools in 10 districts, which would require additional funds.
  - Prohibit suspension and expulsion of Pre-K through Grade 3 students in public schools by way of legislation and increase mental health training for educators.
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- Increase communication and coordination between Judicial (JPOs) and contracted providers (CYFSCs) and local school districts to better serve education needs of youth; the challenge lies in revision of confidentiality statutes.

Ms. Tyrol shared that Chris Rapillo, Office of the Chief Public Defender, raised two objectives in her submission: the need for youth to automatically re-enter school after placement and the need for a uniform definition of school-based arrests; elaborating that some schools will include arrests that are made at school events and some schools include arrests at school that involved incidents that occurred off school grounds.

Amanda Bozak, PhD, (SDE and DCF workgroup), explained that schools that have a dropout rate of 8% or higher must allow students to have access to credit-recovery; members suggest that every school have access to credit recovery. The group also agreed that students in the juvenile justice system who are suspended be able to complete exams, tests, and homework during suspension.

Marissa Halm of the Center for Children's Advocacy strongly encouraged that the Raise the Grade initiative be expanded given the cost implications for students who do not achieve; and to initiate a pilot for schools in Waterbury and New Britain.

Submission by the Office of the Child Advocate was not reviewed. An updated list of all submissions will be distributed electronically once reviewed and reorganized.

The next meeting was scheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 @ 1:00 at the UNH, Saw Mill Campus, in Room 103.

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